CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising steps of:

(A) initiating a connection between a printer and a printing server over a telephone network; and

(B) at the printer, performing steps of:

(1) downloading printing information from the printing server through the connection; and

(2) printing the printing information.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step (A) comprises a step of dialing a telephone number associated with the printing server.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step (A) comprises a step of dialing a telephone number associated with the printer.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the telephone network comprises a POTS network.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the printing information comprises processed printing information, and wherein the method further comprises a step of:

(C) prior to the step (B), modifying source printing information based on capabilities of the printer to produce the processed printing information.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of:

(C) interrupting step (B)(1) if an interrupting signal is detected on the connection between the printing server and the printer.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the telephone network comprises a POTS network, and wherein the step (C) comprises a step of terminating the connection over the telephone network if an interrupting signal is detected on the connection.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the interrupting signal comprises a signal generated by a telephone call placed to the printer over the telephone network.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising steps of:

(D) re-establishing a connection between the printing server and the printer; and

(E) at the printer, resuming download of the printing information from the printing server through the re-established connection.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the printing information comprises a graphical image, and wherein the step (B)(2) comprises a step of printing the graphical image on an output medium.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the printing information comprises an audiovisual stream, and wherein the step (B)(2) comprises a step of playing the audiovisual stream.

12. A system comprising:

means for initiating a connection between a printer and a printing server over a telephone network;

means for downloading printing information from the printing server through the connection; and

means for printing the printing information.

13. A printer comprising:

means for communicating with a printing server over a telephone network;

means for downloading printing information from the printing server through the connection; and

means for printing the printing information.

14. The printer of claim 13, further comprising means for initiating a connection with the printing server over the telephone network.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for communicating comprises a modem.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the communications network comprises a POTS network.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the printing information comprises an image.

18. In a printing server, a method comprising a step of:

(A) initiating a connection to a printer over a telephone network; and

(B) transmitting printing information to the printer through the connection.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the telephone network comprises a POTS network.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the printing information comprises an image to be printed by the printer.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the printing information comprises processed printing information, and wherein the method further comprises a step of:

(C) prior to the step (B), modifying source printing information based on capabilities of the printer to produce the processed printing information.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the step (C) comprises a step of modifying the spatial resolution of the source printing information to produce the processed printing information, whereby the processed printing information has a spatial resolution at which the printer is capable of printing.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step (C) comprises a step of modifying the color depth of the source printing information to produce the processed printing information, whereby the processed printing information has a color depth at which the printer is capable of printing.

24. A system comprising:

a communications device through which a user conducts a transaction with a transaction server over a communications network;

a printing server that serves printing information over a telephone network after completion of the transaction; and

a printer in communication with the printing server through a connection over the telephone network, wherein the printer receives the printing information through the connection.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the telephone network comprises a POTS network.

26. A method comprising steps of:

(A) after completion of a transaction by a user with a transaction server over a communications network, transmitting printing information over a telephone network;

(B) receiving the printing information over the telephone network; and

(C) printing the printing information.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the step (A) comprises steps of:

(A)(1) at a printing server, transmitting the printing information to the transaction server; and

(A)(2) at the transaction server, transmitting the printing information to the printer.

28. The method of claim 26, further comprising a step of:

(D) prior to the step (B), placing a telephone call to the printer over the telephone network to establish a connection to the printer.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the step (D) is performed by the printing server.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the step (D) is performed by the transaction server.

31. The method of claim 26, further comprising a step of:

(D) prior to the step (B), placing a telephone call to the printing server over the telephone network to establish a connection to the printing server.